

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

Commissioners,

My name is James Diggans and I would like to voice my dissent on the FCC's reconsideration of the rules requiring ILECs to provide internet service providers access to the POTS. Removal of these requirements would indeed have perilous consequences for consumers.

I depend on my local internet service provider (ISP) for access to Internet services and options that the large telephone carriers have deemed not profitable enough to be worth their time. If the FCC should deem it acceptable to remove my ISP's access to the public phone network I will lose access to those very important services. Such action will force independent ISPs out of business and actively LIMIT consumer choice for the sole benefit of the ILECs.

The FCC in the past has looked out for consumer choice and should recognize and know better than most that four or five ILECs distributed geographically can bring only limited choice for consumers. ISPs are market-driven, differentiating themselves from their competitors based on services provided and the quality of customer interaction. The ILECs have no need of these niceties, they have government-granted monopolies subject to rampant abuse to the continuing detriment of consumers.

In addition to reducing access to market-driven services the FCC's proposal would likely lead to an increase in consumer rates for internet access. It is only through choice among several providers that market forces are allowed to keep costs down. Removing this (by force of law) will only widen the already wide gap between those who can afford internet access and those who cannot. If the FCC is interested in helping the citizenry to breach the 'digital divide', as I assume it must be, then this is surely not the way to proceed.

Please consider very carefully the far-reaching effects this proposal may have. The internet market is exploding, in part due to ever more cost-effective access to expansive internet services. The wrong move would be to remove these market forces and trust the ILECs to roll out services; I assure you they will not do so if they believe the money to be made is not large enough to cover their considerable overhead.

I ask you, Commissioners, you who have been charged with determining our digital future, to look over the horizon and see how best to serve the American consumer and the American business market. Continuing market domination and consumer abuse at the hands of the ILECs is not the way to keep the Internet economy growing. America needs its ISPs, it needs competition. That is the only way to nurture a stable, fair pricing structure for internet connectivity.

Sincerely,

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